

/

00265

1971/03/18

DECLASSIFIED
Authority E.O. 12958
By CM NARA Date 9/5/02

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

TOP SECRET/SENSITIVE/EYES ONLY

March 18, 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR

THE SECRETARY OF STATE
THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

SUBJECT: Discussion of Troop Withdrawals
and Vietnamization

It is imperative for diplomatic and other reasons that all follow the same principles concerning discussions of planned withdrawal of U. S. forces from Southeast Asia. The following principles govern:

- (1) My comment at my March 4, 1971 press conference that our withdrawals will continue at the present rate referred specifically to the current increment. It is not to be construed in any way as a decision or directive applying to the entire withdrawal schedule.
- (2) In April I intend to make my decision as to the next increment of withdrawals. Until I announce that decision there should be no speculation either on or off the record on the size of the increment or the length of time it covers.
- (3) There should be no speculation whatever about the rest of the schedule.

Each of you should take the necessary steps to insure that every member of your department or agency scrupulously carries out these instructions.

TOP SECRET/SENSITIVE/EYES ONLY